In accordance with the Directive Principles of State Policy, laws such as the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 and the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986, have been enacted with an elaborate support of institutional network.

New schemes have been taken up under the Eighth Plan for the welfare of street and working children.

BEGGARS IN THE COUNTRY

3512. SHRI C. PRATHAPA REDDY :
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of beggers in the country;

(b) what is being done in the area of prevention of beggary;

(c) how many begger homes are there in the country; and

(d) what are the reasons for begger homes not coming up in recent years ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) The exact number of beggars in the country is not known. However, according to the 1981 Census, among the marginal workers, there were 6,839 beggers and vagrants, etc. seeking work and 14,532 beggars and vagrants, etc., not seeking work. Further, among non-workers, there were 72,377 beggers and vagrants, etc., seeking work and 6,78,967 beggars and vagrants etc., not seeking work. The relevant figures of 1991 census have not been published so far.

(b) The problem of beggers is being tackled by State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. So far, 16 States and 2 Union Territory Administrations are implementing their special laws against beggary. The Government of India financially assists State Governments and Union Territory Administrations in setting up Work Centres in the Beggar Homes established or recognised by them under the Beggary Prevention Law.

With a view to providing care, treatment and rehabilitation of beggars residing in existing Beggar Homes, the Government of India has formulated and introduced a new Central Sector Scheme for Beggary Prevention during 1992-93. Under this Scheme grant-in-aid is provided for setting up Work Centres in Beggar Homes with appropriate facilities for technical education and vocational training on modern lines.

(c) As per the latest available figures, there are 118 institutions for Beggar Homes in the country.

(d) State Govenments and Union Territory Administrations have set up beggar homes in keeping with their specific requirements.

PROBLEM OF OLD PERSONS

3513. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the average to longivity if life in India has gone up, and as such the problem of old age people is swelling year by year;

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that many old age parents are in lurch due to the western type of culture set in youngsters;

whether Government propose to propagate the Indian culture of joint family living;

(d) if so, in what manner the Central Government intend to take up in future for the benefit of old people; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELWARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There has been a slow but marked withdrawal of family support to the elderly in India due to the weakening of joint family-ties and migration of their children to cities and developed regions.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Besides the Pension Scheme being implemented by the State Governments, the Central Government has launched a Scheme under the Eighth Five Year Plan to assist Voluntary Organisations/Charitable Trusts/Companies etc. to set up Old Age Homes, Day-Care Centres, Mobile Medical Services and Non-institutional Services for the welfare of the aged. So far 50 Old Age Homes and 147-Day-Care Centres have been set up under the Scheme. Care has been taken to support community-based non-institutional services to the elderly so that their links with the community and the family remain intact.

(e) Does not arise.

SAFE LIMITS OF METALLIC CONTENTS IN DRINKING WATER

@3513-A. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) what are the safe limits of metallic compounds prescribed by the W.H.O. for drinking water;

(b) whether any scientific analysis of the water supplied by DDA through the tubewells in the city has been made to know if the water is safe in accordance with limits prescribed by W.H.O.;

(c) if so, what are the areas in which the metallic and metals contents in water well are found in excess of the limits prescribed; and

(d) what action has been taken by Government for the supply of safe drinking water ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON) : (a) The safe limits of metallic compounds prescribed by the World Health Organisation for drinking water are given in the enclosed Statement. (*See* below)

(b) No, Sir. As far as DDA is concerned, scientific analysis of the water samples are carried out as per the National Standards laid down by Bureau of Indian Standards in Code No. IS-10500-1991.

(c) Wherever water in the DDA colonies is supplied through tube-wells, it is ensured that the water conforms to the Bureau of Indian Standards Code for drinking purposes.

(d) Since water supply is a State subject, action is taken by the concerned authorities for supply of safe drinking water to the people in the city.

@Previously Unstarred Question 2799, transferred from the 22nd December, 1993.